DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEBT REDEMPTION COMMITTEE.

Chairman : We will now go on to the next item in the agenda, *viz*, the discussion on the report of the Debt Redemption Committee Till 3-30 the House will have time to discuss that.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Before beginning the discussion, I wish to bring to your notice that the time allotted is not at all sufficient, as the subject is a very important one and many members wish to speak on it.

Chairman : I will allot 15 minutes for each member.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: We have only 40 minutes more as the discussion on the adjournment motion begins at 3-30.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether the Chief Secretary is able to assure the House if any extension of time will be given to us for the discussion of this report ?

Chairman : The President has announced already that no further extension will be allowed.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : All that the President said was that the question of extension may be considered later on. He did not give a definite reply.

Chairman : That is left to the Dewan.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I appeal to the Chair to convey this request of the House to the Dewan ?

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: Sir, my complaint is that Nanjinad has been neglected and was not taken into account by the authors of this Report. Otherwise the Report contains wholesome provisions and measures of relief. All the members of the Committee deserve congratulation for their efforts. In this connection, I also thank Mr. Kumara Pillai, one of the members of the Committee, for his special reference to Nanjinad.

Sir, a question was raised as to whether the Nanjinad cultivators have a special problem of their own. My answer is that not only have they a special problem but they are as a matter of right entitled to special consideration.

Mr. K. George : The question was about special debt problem as apart from this.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : I am coming to the debt problem also. With regard to the peculiar problems in Nanjinad, first I will have to state that the Nanjinad cultivator mainly depends upon paddy. Unlike other places, in Nanjinad paddy is

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the only agricultural produce and the cultivation of paddy is the only agricultural pursuit; and secondly the cost of cultivation is prohibitive. The Economic Depression Enquiry Committee has estimated the cost of cultivation at Rs. 84 per acre. The most important of all and the most serious point to be taken into account is the heavy taxation to which Nanjinad has been subjected from early times. Sir, ever since I entered the House, I have been harping upon this question but unfortunately it has fallen on deaf ears and Government have not come to the rescue of the Nanjinad cultivators as yet. My object is to point out with special reference to Nanjinad its extreme and heavy taxation that has been the cause of indebtedness. Sir, even as early as the time of the honourable Rama Aiyangar it has been stated that so far as Tovala and Agastiswaram taluks are concerned this taxation is unequal and he has also stated, as will be seen from the Land Revenue Manual, Vol. IV, page 687, that the inequality of assessment is another evil of very great magnitude and that, generally, to the north of Trivandrum the taxation is moderate. He has further stated that under this heavy taxation it is idle to expect any great interest in cultivation and the ryot gets only a bare subsistence from his land. Now the conditions are worse.

With regard to the debt problem, the learned mover has been putting questions about it. As regards that, I will refer the mover to the report of the Banking Enquiry Committee. That Committee has estimated the debt at Rs. 304 per acre. Sir, what is the price of the land at present? The Banking Enquiry Committee published its report in 1930 and nearly 5 years have elapsed since then. In the meantime, the debt has not only increased but the land has also fallen in value. The Committee in their report say that, as regards Kuttanad, the value of land has fallen by 50 per cent. But unfortunately the Committee have not prepared any statistics with regard to Nanjinad. If only they had cared, they could have obtained this information from the number of execution cases in the civil courts and from the records in the Sub-Registrar's offices. It is very unfortunate that they have not cared to obtain any statistics with regard to this Anyhow, from the report itself and from the dissenting minute prepared by Mr. Kumara Pillai, it will be seen that only a small fraction, nearly 10 per cent. of the population, are free from debt in Nanjinad. In this connection I have to point out to the House that, while the Kuttanad ryots and the rubber planters were making enormous profits paying only a small fraction of it to Government, the Nanjinad people on the other hand have been paying this heavy taxation from a very long time and with a small margin of profit. Sir, the Economic Depression

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Enquiry Committee have estimated the annual net profit at Rs. 20 per acre at a time when paddy was selling at more than Rs. 5. During the Budget Session in 1110, I pointed out by facts and figures in this House how in most cases the margin of profit was nil. Under these circumstances, I beg to point out to the House, and I would like to draw the pointed attention of the Government that, as a first measure of relief and with special reference to Nanjinad, a substantial reduction must be made in land revenue. That is an important measure of relief which I would request the Government to adopt with special reference to Nanjinad. Sir, the very same argument advanced by the Committee as between debtors and creditors may hold good here also. That is, the burden of land revenue has increased on account of the fall in prices and the payment of land revenue under the existing rates is one of the main causes of indebtedness. At the very outset I started with the statement that legislation as regards rural indebtedness must take into account all causes of indebtedness and with reference to Nanjinad the main cause of indebtedness is the excessive taxation which does not obtain anywhere in the world.

Chairman : You have got only two minutes more.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai : Sir, comming to the recommendations, the most important of them is the establishment of conciliation boards. Several members opposed the motion but my strong argument is as Mr. Satyanandan has said "it will provide a cheap and accessible tribunal, will save a lot of worry and intricacies and technicalities which will have to be experienced in a court of law" and, therefore, I would strongly recommend the establishment of conciliation boards. With regard to the rate of interest I would submit.....

Chairman : Your time is up.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai : Sir, before the debate proceeds further I may bring to your notice that as amendments have been moved and as they have to be voted upon to know the sense of the House and as the House has to take up the adjournment motion at 3 30, the amendments may be put to vote at about 3-20 and when all the questions are put, it means that the debate on the Agricultural Debt Redemption Committee Report is finished. Whether there be an extension of time or not for the debate on this report, if the motion of Mr. Narayana Aiyar is carried, the House will have to adjourn and it will not be possible to take up the discussion again to-day. So, if Mr. Narayana Aiyar proposes to move his motion, the safer course will be to put the questions on the report to vote to-day as I suggested.

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Mr. S Piraviperumal Pillai : May I know whether the recommendations have not got to be put one by one?

Chairman : Yes. I am directed to say that no further time will be granted by the Dewan. It is, therefore, necessary for members to make up their minds as to whether this adjournment motion should be taken up and discussed or whether Mr. Narayana Aiyar is willing to withdraw it. Of course, if that motion has to be taken up, it has to be taken up at 3-30. Before that the amendments have to be voted upon. What does Mr. Narayana Aiyar say?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : I submit that the adjournment motion may be taken up at 4 o' clock.

Chairman : If you press your adjournment motion, we have to commence voting on the recommendations of the Debt Redemption Committee by 3-20, unless the non-official members are prepared to forego some of their resolutions posted for to-morrow.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: We will gladly spare some time to-morrow for further discussion on the Debt Redemption Committee Report, in the light of its importance and in the light of the fact that many of us have yet to speak upon it.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: If that is the general sense of the House, the Dewan may be pursuaded to agree to that course.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : If the Government are not prepared to extend the session, we are prepared to forego a portion of the non-official day for this purpose.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi : The subject has been discussed enough, Sir, and I move for closure.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : We can continue the discussion at least till 3-20, Sir.

The closure motion was put to vote and carried.

Mr. K. George : I have nothing to add to what I have already stated.

Chairman : I shall now put the amendments, one after another, to the vote of the House.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : The first amendment of Mr. E. P. Varghese consists of several parts. Each part may be voted upon separately.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : Is it not better that all the parts are put together?

Chairman : I propose to put each part separately.

The following amendment by Mr. E. P. Varghese, was put to vote and lost:—

> (*a*) Substitute the words "who both earns his livelihood mainly by agriculture" in the definition of the term "agriculturist" in recommendation No. 1 for the words "whose income from land exceeds the income from other sources."

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Mr. E. P. Varghese : I demand a poll.

A poll was taken, and the House divided as follows :

AYES--11.

1	Mr.	V. S. Arumukham Pillai	7	Mr.	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
2	,,	J. John Kattakayam	8	,,	P. Padmanabhan Tampi
3	,,	M. P. Madhavan Pillai	9	,,	M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai
4	,,	M. N. Narayana Menon	10	,,	K. Sankaralingam Pillai
5	,,	K. P. Nilakanta Pillai	11	,,	E. P. Varghese
6	,,	K. Padmanabha Panickar			

NOES—5.

1	Mr.	Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi	4	Mr.	K. Rama Varma Raja
2	,,	M. Govindan	5	,,	A. N. Visvanatha Pillai
3	,,	K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad			

NEUTRALS—17.

1	Mr.	S. Adam Sait	10	Mr.	R. Nilakanta Pillai
2	,,	C. V. Chandrasekharan	11	,,	Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
3	,,	K. George	12	,,	S. Piraviperumal Pillai
4	,,	William Foster Inman	13	,,	R. Pitchu Aiyangar
5	,,	C. M. Joseph	14	,,	Komilezhathu Sankaran
6	,,	Tariatu Kunjitomman	15	,,	T. C. Thommen
7	,,	K. N. Kesava Pillai	16	,,	G. B. E. Truscott
8	,,	C. O. Madhavan	17	,,	Hajee Hassan Yacoob Sait
9	,,	H. O. L. Marikar			

The amendment was declared carried.

The following amendment, also moved by Mr. E. P. Varghese, was then put to vote and carried:—

> "(*b*) Substantial relief to the indebted agriculturist can be given only if the Government finance the debt relief through the Land Mortage Bank and in doing so the recommendations contained in paragraph 52 on page 84 of the report shall be adopted with the modification in sub-para "k" on page 86 that not only the interest but the principal too of the debentures should be guaranteed by Government."

The following amendment, by Mr. E. P. Varghese, was then put to vote and carried :—

> "(*c*) In order to enable the Government to finance the debt relief through the Land Mortage Bank it shall be enacted that the Bank shall undertake to advance loans under this scheme only to persons the present worth of whose debts do not exceed Rs. 6,000 and only 25 per cent. in cash and 75 per cent. in instalment debenture bonds."

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The following amendment, also by Mr. E. P. Varghese, was next put to vote and carried :—

"(*d*) A uniform rate of reduction fixed by legislation is the only practical measure of substantial relief and the debt conciliation boards recommended by the Committee will only create new difficulties and inordinate delay."

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: I demand a poll.

A poll was taken, and the House divided as follows :

AYES—8

1	Mr.	K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad	5	Mr.	S. Piraviperumal Pillai
2	,,	K. P. Nilakanta Pillai	6	,,	Komilezhathu Sankaran
3	,,	P. Padmanabhan Tampi	7	,,	E. P. Varghese
4	,,	M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai	8	,,	A. N. Visvanatha Pillai

NOES—10.

1.	Mr.	V. S. Arumukham Pillai	6	Mr.	Tariatu Kunjitomman
2.	,,	Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi	7.	,,	M. P. Madhavan Pillai
3.	,,	M. Govindan	8.	,,	M. N. Narayana Menon
4.	,,	J. John Kattakayam	9.	,,	K. Padmanabha Panickar
5.	,,	C. M. Joseph	10.	,,	K. Rama Varma Raja

NEUTRALS—16.

1.	Mr.	Adam Sait	9.	Mr.	R. Nilakanta Pillai
2.	,,	C. V. Chandrasekharan	10.	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
3.	,,	K. George	11.	,,	Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
4,	,,	William Foster Inman	12.	,,	R. Pitchu Aiyangar
5.	,,	K. N. Kesava Pillai	13	,,	K. Sankaralingam Pillai
6.	,,	C. O. Madhavan	14.	,,	T. C. Thommen
7.	,,	H. O. L. Marikar	15.	,,	G. B. E. Truscott
8.	,,	E. I. Mathew	16.	,,	Hajee Hassan Yacoob Sait

The amendment was declared lost.

The following amendment, by Mr. E. P. Varghese, was then put to vote and declared carried :—

"(e) A payment of 70 per cent. of the present worth of the debts shall be considered as full payment."

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Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :

AYES—7.

1. Mr. C. M. Joseph	5. Mr. Komilezhathu Sankaran
2. ,, Tariatu Kunjitomman	6. ,, E. P. Varghese
3. ,, M. N. Narayana Menon	7. ,, A. N. Visvanatha Pillai
4. ,, P. Padmanabhan Tampi	

NOES—11.

1. Mr. S. Adam Sait	7. Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar
2. ,, V. S. Arumukham Pillai	8. ,, S. Piraviperumal Pillai
3. ,, Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi	9. ,, K. Rama Varma Raja
4. ,, M. Govindan	10. ,, K. Sankaralingam Pillai
5. ,, K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad	11 ,, Hajee Hassan Yacoob Sait
6. ,, H. O. L. Marikar	

NEUTRALS—16.

1. Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan	10. Mr. K. Padmanabha Panickar
2. ,, K. George	11. ,, N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
3. ,, William Foster Inman	12. ,, Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
4. ,, J. John Kattakayam	13. ,, M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai
5. ,, K. N. Kesava Pillai	14. ,, R. Pitchu Aiyangar
6. ,, M. P. Madhavan Pillai	15. ,, T. C. Thommen
7. ,, C. O. Madhavan	16. ,, G. B. E. Truscott
8. ,, E. I. Mathew	
9. ,, R. Nilakanta Pillai	

The amendment was declared lost.

The following amendment next by Mr. E. P. Varghese, was put to vote and declared carried :

" (*f*) Interest on loans allowable from the date of enactment shall not exceed 5 per cent. per annum."

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :

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AYES—16.

1. Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai	9. Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
2. ,, Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi	10. ,, P. Padmanabhan Tampi
3. ,, C. M. Joseph	11. ,, M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai
4. ,, Tariatu Kunjitomman	12. ,, K. Rama Varma Raja
5. ,, M. P. Madhavan Pillai	13. ,, K. Sankaralingam Pillai
6. ,, M. N. Narayana Menon	14. ,, Komilezhathu Sankaran
7. ,, K. P. Nilakanta Pillai	15. ,, E. P. Varghese
8. ,, K. Padmanabha Panickar	16 ,, A. N. Visvanatha Pillai

NOES—2.

1. M. Govindan
2. G. Narayana Aiyar.

NEUTRALS—17.

1. Mr. S. Adam Sait	10. Mr. E. I. Mathew
2. ,, C. V. Chandrasekharan	21. ,, R. Nilakanta Pillai
3. ,, K. George	12. ,, Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai
4. ,, William Foster Inman	13. ,, S. Piraviperumal Pillai
5. ,, J. John Kattakayam	14. ,, R. Pitchu Aiyangar
6. ,, K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad	15. ,, T. C. Thommen
7. ,, K. N. Kesava Pillai	16. ,, G. B. E. Truscott
8. ,, C. O. Madhavan	17. ,, Hajee Hassan Yacoob Sait
9. ,, H. O. I. Marikar	

The amendment was declared carried.

Chairman: The next amendment of Mr. E. P. Varghese runs as follows:

"This Council recommends that, in view of the fact that relief measures are already overdue, a Regulation based on the recommendations of the committee with the amendments proposed above be passed and brought into force within 3 months."

The amendment was put to vote and carried.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: I demand a poll.

When the 'Ayes' were counted and no one voted against the amendment, the Chairman asked those who remained neutral to stand up.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Since no one voted against the amendment there is no necessity to record the neutrals.

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Chairman : Neutrals have to be recorded.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : When there is no opposition, is it necessary that neutrals should be recorded ?

Chairman : I have already ruled that when a poll is taken it is necessary to take the names of those who are neutral as well as those who are for or against.

Accordingly, a poll was taken with the following results :—

AYES—20.

1	Mr.	V. S. Arumukham Pillai	11	Mr.	K. Padmanabha Panickar
2	,,	Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi	12	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai
3	,,	M. Govindan	13	,,	P. Padmanabhan Tampi
4	,,	J. John Kattakayam	14	,,	M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai
5	,,	C. M. Joseph	15	,,	S. Piraviperumal Pillai
6	,,	K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad	16	,,	K. Rama Varma Raja
7	,,	Tariatu Kunjitomman	17	,,	K. Sankaralingam Pillai
8	,,	M. P. Madhavan Pillai	18	,,	Komilezhathu Sankaran
9	,,	M. N. Narayana Menon	19	,,	E. P. Varghese
10	,,	K. P. Nilakanta Pillai	20	,,	A. N. Visvanatha Pillai

NOES—Nil.

NEUTRALS—14.

1	Mr.	S. Adam Sait	8	Mr.	K. George
2	,,	William Foster Inman	9	,,	G. B. E. Truscott
3	,,	H. O. L. Marikar	10	,,	Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
4	,,	Hajee Hassan Yacoob Sait	11	,,	C. V. Chandrasekharan
5	,,	T. C. Thommen	12	,,	E. I. Mathew
6	,,	K. N. Kesava Pillai	13	,,	R. Pitchu Aiyangar
7	,,	R. Nilakanta Pillai	14	,,	C. O. Madhavan

The amendment was declared carried.

Chairman : The next amendment of Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai is to add at the end of the motion—

"With the addition of the words 'debts due to traders' as sub-clause (v) at the end of para 2 defining agricultural debts in the summary of conclusions and recommendations".

The amendment was put to vote and lost.

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Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai : I demand a poll.

A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :—

AYES—5.

1	Mr.	V. S. Arumukham Pillai	4	Mr.	S. Piraviperumal Pillai
2	,,	M. Govindan	5	,,	K. Sankaralingam Pilla
3	,,	M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai			

NOES—11

1	Mr.	J. John Kattakayam	7	Mr.	P. Padmanabhan Tampi
2	,,	C. M. Joseph	8	,,	K. Rama Varma Raja
3	,,	K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad	9	,,	Komilezhathu Sankaran
4	,,	Tariatu Kunjitomman	10	,,	E. P. Varghese
5	,,	M. P. Madhavan Pillai	11	,,	A. N. Visvanatha Pillai
6	,,	N. K. Padmanabha Pillai			

NEUTRALS—17.

1	Mr.	Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi	10	Mr.	R. Nilakanta Pillai
2	,,	William Foster Inman	11	,,	K. George
3	,,	H. O. L. Marikar	12	,,	G. B. E. Truscott
4	,,	M. N. Narayana Menon	13	,,	Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
5	,,	K. P. Nilakanta Pillai	14	,,	C. V. Chandrasekharan
6	,,	K. Padmanabha Panickar	15	,,	E. I. Mathew
7	,,	Hajee Hassan Yacoob Sait	16	,,	R. Pitchu Aiyangar
8	,,	T. C. Thommen	17	,,	C. O. Madhavan
9	,,	K. N. Kesava Pillai			

The amendment was declared lost.

Chairman : The next amendment to be voted upon is the one moved by Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai : Sir, we have already voted on amendment No. 2 moved by Mr. E. P. Varghese which says that "this Council recommends that a Regulation based on the recommendations of the committee, with the amendments proposed, be passed". Now the present motion is that "this Council approves the recommendations in the report and recommends to the

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[Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Government to introduce a Bill immediately to bring them into force". Sir, this amendment goes against the motion that has already been carried. So this motion cannot be put to vote.

Chairman: I think that as the amendment of Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman is conflicting with the amendment of Mr. E. P. Vargh se which has already been passed by this House, Mr. Kunjitomman's amen ment need not be put to the vote.

Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman: എന്റെ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നു.

The amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Chairman: The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3. 30 P. M. to discuss the adjournment motion.

The House adjourned at 3-22 P. M. and reassembled at 3-30 P. M., Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai, one of the panel of Chairmen, presiding.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* THE CIRCULAR ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF REGISTRATION.

Chairman: Mr. Narayana Aiyar will now move the motion for adjournment.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, the subject-matter of my adjournment motion is the issue of the circular by the Director of Registration, which came into operation from the 1st Chingam 1111. The circular reads as follows:—

> "From and after 1-1-1111, all transactions between parties mentioned in the recital or body of a receipt for payment, which would be assessable to registration fees if stated in an instrument separate in itself, should have their value also taken into consideration in assessing the fee leviable on the record, unless the transaction or record or payment so referred to has been previously registered and the registration fee leviable on it had already been credited to Government. The assessment for fees need be made only on the total of the payments referred to in the recital. The registering officers should also see that references to marriages, divorce and similar relations between parties for the instruments evidencing which fixed fees are leviable, mentioned in the document, are not omitted from account in calculating total fee and stamp duty leviable on the receipt, if they are not referred to as having formed the subject of registered instruments already."

Mr. M. Govindan: Sir, I have a complaint to make. We are not furnished with copies of that circular.

Chairman: I understand that the relevant portion of the extract has been printed in the notice of the adjournment motion itself and that copies of it have been circulated yesterday.

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